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Bangalore Mirror

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JET SETTING

In race to meet Sept 15 deadline to fix potholes, jet patcher machines to be ace up BBMP's sleeve

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HIGH RIDERS

Intensified crackdown on bike stunts, wheeling reveals thrill seekers' links to drug abuse

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Cybercrime has caused losses crossing ₹240 crore in early 2024; 9,938 cases recorded in 2022, while in 2024, just by August 2024, 12,356 cases registered

AGE OF THE DIGITAL DACOITS

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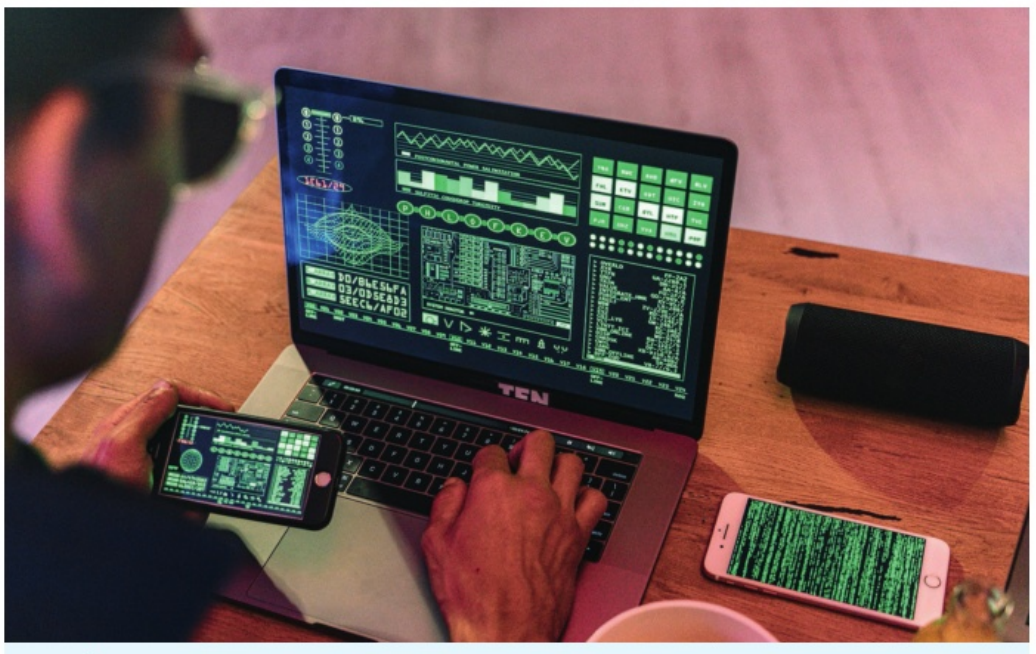
Bengaluru has seen a concerning spike in white-collar and cybercrimes recently, with victims losing vast sums of money to increasingly complex scams. In just the first two months of 2024, cybercrime alone led to losses of over ₹240 crore, with detection rates plummeting to just 1.36%, a drastic drop from previous years. A majority of these cases involve job frauds, with over ₹63 crore lost to scams promising work-from-home opportunities. These frauds are increasingly sophisticated, with criminals using multiple bank accounts and fast transfers to avoid detection.

One notable case in early 2024 involved a gang of 11 cyber criminals who scammed 265 victims, primarily in Bengaluru, siphoning off nearly ₹158 crore. The gang lured victims with promises of high returns on small investments, only to disappear once larger sums were invested. The police have struggled to recover the stolen funds, with only a small fraction—around ₹62 lakh—retrieved.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »



"Financial fraud cases need to be reported within 72 hours, as stipulated by the RBI to hold banks accountable. The confusion about whether to approach the police or banks first adds to the problem —Chetan Anand, Cyber Crime Intervention Officer

Empty nest

BDA looks to rope in private builders to sell its flats as despite efforts several flats unsold

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As demand dwindles, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) is now considering selling flats through private builders. Despite several efforts to boost sales, including conducting sales processes online and organizing flat sale melas, the response has not met expectations. Bulk buyers were offered discounts, but thousands of flats built over a decade ago are still unsold. This has led the BDA to turn to private companies for assistance in selling the remaining units.

Since its inception, the BDA has constructed a total of 11,917 flats across 38 sectors. Out of these, 8,331 have been sold, leaving 3,586 still on the market. The BDA has invested crores of rupees in building these housing complexes, and the unsold flats have added to the financial burden. Sources said that several reasons have been cited for the decline in demand.

When purchasing homes, buyers often prioritise vastu (traditional Indian architectural principles), and BDA flats reportedly do not adhere strictly to these guidelines. Additionally, many of these housing complexes are located in the outskirts of the city, where road connectivity and metro access are lacking. There have also been complaints about the quality of the housing complexes, which has further reduced demand.

When contacted, NA Harris, Chairman of the BDA, said, "Our flats are reasonably priced compared to private complexes

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

2 THINGS TO DO

01 Musical evening

Vibe to the melodic tunes of Yudhvir YSR, a singer-songwriter hailing from Chandigarh, currently living in Bengaluru at Friday Night Unplugged @ Urban Solace. This multi-genre artist is known for his vibrant and enthralling performances revolving around classic rock, rock n roll, hard rock, grunge, heavy metal, and more. His original compositions are the highlights of his performances. **Where: Urban Solace**
When: September 13, 8 pm

02 Jazzy tunes

Vibe to a special performance at Windmills by the Armengou & Macià Duo. The Alba Armengou & Ramon Macià Duo invites audiences on a vibrant musical journey that spans across the globe. Their performances are a tribute to the beauty of musical diversity, seamlessly blending various styles that resonate deeply with their artistic identities. The duo brings their unique interpretations to the works of renowned composers, creating a captivating fusion of vocals, trumpet, piano, and guitar. **Where: Windmills, Whitefield; When: September 13 & 14, 9:30 pm onwards**

New Hyundai Alcazar unveiled

Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL) on Wednesday launched the new Hyundai ALCAZAR at a starting price of Rs 14,99,000 for the 1.5 l Turbo GDi Petrol and Rs 15,99,000 for the 1.5 l U2 CRDi Diesel. Speaking at the launch, Unsoo Kim, Managing Director, HMIL, said, "At HMIL, we are committed to enhancing customer experience through our products. The new Hyundai ALCAZAR reflects this commitment. We are confident that the SUV will offer value to our customers." He said that the 6 and 7 seater SUV offers features such as rain sensing wipers, an 8-speaker sound system, voice-enabled panoramic sunroof, wireless chargers for the first and second rows, a magnetic pad, and more. It is designed to enhance driving experiences with a combination of technology, comfort, and performance and it provides 70 advanced safety features. – BMB

Exam board may manage SSLC midterms in 2024

Confusion on midterm exams remains as board-prepared question papers await final approval; schools urge timely decision, associations criticise move

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This year, SSLC students will be facing board-level question papers for their midterm examinations as the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) has decided to prepare the question papers for the 2024 midterm exams as well.

Previously, the board only handled annual exams, while midterm and preparatory exams were managed at the school level. However, since last year, the board has been providing question papers for the preparatory exams as well. This year, the board will be continuing this practice for midterm exams, sending question papers online to Block Education Officers (BEOs), who will be printing and distributing them to schools.

Awaiting approval

The proposal to prepare the midterm exam question papers has been discussed with officials, and they have agreed to the printing process. Final approval from higher-ups is awaited.

Around eight lakh students in the state curriculum are currently preparing for the SSLC exams, but confusion remains about the midterm exams, and schools are urging the board for a timely decision.

'In 2023, the SSLC pass rate was 83.89%, which dropped to 73.40% in 2024, despite several measures to improve marks'

Motive behind move

Officials said that the move to provide board-level question papers aims to improve the SSLC exam results, which saw a 10.49 per cent decline in 2024, despite measures such as grace marks and reduced passing marks. In 2023, the pass rate was 83.89 per cent, which dropped to 73.40 percent in 2024. The board sees this measure as a step toward improving outcomes. However, not everyone agrees with the board's decision.

Lokesh Talikatte, who heads a private school association, criticised the move, calling it a means of collecting fees for question papers, which he believes will not benefit students but will undermine the quality of teaching in schools.

> **"This move to provide board-level question papers aims to improve SSLC exam results, which saw a 10.49% decline in 2024** – Officials

Bengaluru North University will rectify its mistake

Bengaluru North University (BNU) has moved to address the violations of University Grants Commission (UGC) norms in its PhD admissions but has inadvertently introduced another error in the process. Bangalore Mirror, in its September 9 article titled "Bengaluru North University in PhD Favouritism Scandal," highlighted the breaches of UGC guidelines in the university's PhD selection process. While the university took corrective measures to replace the 50:50 ratio between the entrance exam and interview with the UGC-prescribed 70:30 ratio, official records reveal that a new issue has arisen.

The university is now working to rectify these errors. It has faced criticism for allocating 60 per cent weightage to interview scores instead of the mandated 30 per cent. Dr Thippeswamy K, Registrar (Evaluation) at BNU, stated, "The university considered 50 per cent each from the candidates' postgraduate marks and entrance exam, then applied a 70 per cent weightage from that. However, 60 per cent of the interview scores were considered, which has led to backlash. This oversight has come to our attention, and corrective action will be taken immediately."

Sophisticated tech makes detection tougher

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In another similar case, a 69-year-old man fell victim to an online trading scam, losing over ₹98 lakh. The fraudsters added him to a WhatsApp group and deceived him by promising high investment returns, convincing him that his investment had grown to ₹3.69 crore. When he attempted to withdraw the funds, the scammers demanded a 30% commission and then disappeared with his money. The crime involved fake SEBI registration numbers, third-party accounts, and forged bank messages. These cases highlight the rising threat of white-collar crime in Bengaluru. The surge is compounded by the rapid digitisation of services, making the city a prime target for cybercriminals who exploit gaps in financial security. Continuous changes in scam tactics, including the use of mule accounts and encryption, make it difficult for law enforcement to keep pace.

Surge continues

Cybercrime cases have seen a notable surge, with 9,938 cases reported in 2022, rising to 17,633 in 2023. By August 2024, 12,356 cases have already been registered, reflecting a continuing upward trend. The increase from 2022 to 2023 was 77.43%, and the figures for 2024 indicate a similar rise, with a significant number of cases recorded in just the first eight months.

Dr. Chandragupta, Additional Commissioner of Police (Crime) says that the detection involves both identifying and arresting the accused and when it comes to financial cybercrimes, which often involve investment fraud, credential theft, and the unauthorised use of personal information, cybercriminals employ a variety of sophisticated methods.

"These crimes typically involve electronic communications routed through multiple channels, such as service providers, the internet, and apps, often hosted in different countries. Securing information across borders requires complex legal arrangements, and responses from international law enforcement agencies can be hindered by legal barriers. As cybercriminals continue to use increasingly sophisticated techniques, it remains a challenge. While we work to overcome these issues, public awareness is crucial," he explained, adding that increasing digitisation is also adding to the complexity of these crimes.

Awareness needed

Investigations are becoming more time-consuming due to the sophisticated technology employed by cybercriminals, which complicates detection efforts. Additionally, jurisdictional issues, especially those involving international cybercriminals, further exacerbate the problem. Despite ongoing efforts by the police to raise awareness, these initiatives are not reaching a broad enough audience.

"While the police are working to increase awareness, it's not reaching enough people. Financial fraud cases need to be reported within 72 hours, as stipulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to hold banks accountable. The confusion about whether to approach the police or banks first adds to the problem, highlighting the need for better awareness," says Chetan Anand, National Cyber Security Scholar and Cyber Crime Intervention Officer (CCIO).

"Victims can report crimes through three methods: calling 1930, visiting the cybercrime police station in person, or using the online portal at cybercrime.gov.in. This online system provides an acknowledgment via SMS or email, which helps streamline the process," he said, adding that the key challenge remains raising awareness and ensuring that people understand how to distinguish between legitimate and fraudulent links.

Share details of serial complainant: HC to cops

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The Karnataka High Court has instructed the Director General of Police and Inspector General of Police to share the details of a woman complainant who had filed nine complaints/FIRs against various individuals, alleging sexual harassment, criminal intimidation, and offences under Section 498A of IPC, with all police stations in the state. Justice M Nagaprasanna, in a single judge bench, stated,

"The details of the woman complainant be available on the database of the police stations, so that they could be cautious when the complainant would want to register a crime against any other man."

The court added that before registering any crime by this complainant, the police station should conduct an appropriate preliminary inquiry to prevent the indiscriminate registration of crimes against multiple men. The court's directive was issued while allowing a petition filed by the woman's husband and in-laws, seeking the quashing of offences registered against them under various sections of the Indian Penal Code. Notably, this was the complainant's tenth crime registration in the past decade.

The court reviewed the complainant's previous nine complaints and observed that she had registered crimes without any justification against several men and their family members, leading to their arrest and prolonged custody before securing bail.

Court says before registering any crime, police should conduct preliminary probe to prevent indiscriminate registration of crimes against multiple men

The accused had to endure the trial process only to be acquitted due to the complainant's lack of cooperation. The court inferred that the complainant's intention was to harass individuals who had no connection with her, using a modus operandi resembling a honey trap.

The court noted that for the past decade, the complainant had been falsely accusing individuals, resulting in the accused being taken into custody, securing bail, and ultimately being acquitted. The police were engaged in investigating these false claims, and the criminal courts were conducting trials that consistently ended in acquittals.

Petition of daughter-in-law seeking compassionate posting squashed

The High Court has rejected a petition filed by a daughter-in-law seeking compassionate appointment in the state's rural drinking water and sanitation department. The plea, filed by Priyanka Halamani, challenged the order of the Karnataka State Administrative Tribunal, which had denied her application for a government appointment.

In its ruling, the division bench of Justice Krishna S Dixit and Justice Vijaykumar A Patil stated, "The lawmaker as a matter of policy has framed the definition of 'family' to include specific relatives of the employee dying in harness and the daughter-in-law is not one of them. It is not within the domain of Courts to expand or constrict a statutory definition." The petitioner's counsel argued that Rule 2(b)(ii) of the Karnataka Civil Services (Appointment on Compassionate Grounds) (Amendment) Rules, 2021, should be interpreted to include the daughter-in-law in the definition of 'family,' which would make the petitioner eligible for employment on compassionate grounds.

However, the government opposed the petition, asserting that the rules, being made by the delegate of the legislature, should be respected by the judiciary. The government argued that the rule makers had consciously excluded the daughter-in-law from the definition of 'family,' and adding her to the definition would be tantamount to manipulating the law, which is impermissible.

The court rejected the petitioner's contention.

Extortion: 4 fake GST officials held

The Central Crime Branch (CCB), in collaboration with the East Division police, arrested four persons posing as GST and Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials in a case of extortion involving a private company. The accused were apprehended based on a complaint filed by Keshav Tak of Mexo Solutions Private Ltd at the Baiyyappanahalli Police Station.

According to the complaint, on August 30, a group of individuals claiming to be officials from the GST and ED forcibly entered Tak's home. They confiscated phones and other belongings, coercing Tak, along with his colleagues Pawan Tak, Mukesh Jain, and Rakesh Manak Chandani, to vacate the premises. The victims were then taken to various locations, held in separate rooms, and assaulted.

The primary accused, Manoj, posing as a GST Officer, forced Tak to call a business associate, Roshan Jain, demanding ₹3 crore. When Jain could not arrange it, the group continued to attack the victims, ultimately demanding ₹1.5 crore. **BMB**

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Swift fix: Jet patchers set to tackle potholes

BBMP races to fill potholes before Sep 15 deadline, with major work underway in Rajarajeshwari Nagar; Chief Commissioner Nath mandates urgent upgrades for water management and road repairs

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As the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) races against time to fill potholes before the September 15 deadline, the City Corporation is now experimenting with jet patcher machines. Initially, these machines were being used on a trial basis to fill potholes in the Rajarajeshwari Nagar zone.

Ajay, the Joint Commissioner of BBMP's RR Nagar Zone, stated, "We have started using the jet patcher machine to fill potholes in the Rajarajeshwari Nagar zone. This method allows for quick and efficient pothole repair. The jet patcher machine can rapidly fill potholes on major roads. It can handle potholes ranging from 150 to 180 cm wide at a time, and vehicles can drive smoothly over the patched surface immediately after filling. All necessary measures are being taken to address potholes quickly in the RR Nagar zone, except for completely damaged roads. Potholes are being filled both day and night, with efforts focused on completing the task within the set deadline."

Since May 20, engineers in the Rajarajeshwari Nagar zone, comprising 20 wards, have identified 2,443 potholes. Of these, 2,408 have already been filled, with work on the remaining 35 ongoing. Additionally, 461 complaints have been received from the public through the "Pothole Alert Software." So far, 86 potholes have been addressed, with efforts underway to promptly complete repairs on the remaining 302. The RR Nagar Zone includes two assembly constituencies and covers an area of 112.01 square kilometres. It features 11,367 ward roads stretching over 1,829.44 kilometres, and 44 major roads spanning 216.45 kilometres. The total length of the road network within the zone is 2,045.89 kilometres.

Meanwhile, during the inspection on Tuesday night, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said that a pipeline has been installed at Hebbal to prevent water logging, and gratings have been put in place to ensure smooth water flow. The waste accumulating in the gratings will be cleared periodically. Additionally, work is ongoing near the metro pillars by the main drain. Metro authorities have been directed to implement safety measures to prevent inconvenience to pedestrians. There is also a directive to repair damaged pedestrian slabs and to immediately mill and resurface the road.

Nath, who inspected the Kariyanapalya area, directed officials to ensure proper maintenance of street lights, repair pedestrian pathways, and address water stagnation on the road by constructing a retaining wall and carrying out the necessary work. At the Veeranna Palya flyover, the inspection revealed that a large signboard installed near the pedestrian path needed to be removed immediately. Nath also instructed officials to install street lights and to complete the asphalting of the service road beside the overbridge promptly. During the rainy season, water stagnation issues near the Veeranna Palya junction were addressed. However, it was noted that slabs were missing over the side drain, and instructions were given for their installation. Additionally, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has been directed to carry out asphalting work at the Veeranna Palya junction.

Jet patcher smoothing out pothole surface

"It can handle potholes ranging from 150 to 180cm wide, vehicles can drive smoothly over patched surface right after filling – Ajay, BBMP

Trucks terrorise Whitefield with noise and debris

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Namma Whitefield Residents Welfare Association (RWA) reports illegal dumping of debris by tipper trucks on the north side of Pattandur Agrahara Lake (Survey 54) and in nearby wetlands and Rajkaluve in recent days.

The residents have filed a complaint with the Whitefield police station about this issue and noted that the noise from the trucks has been disturbing them. In the letter, they said, "The trucks make ear-splitting explosive noises and they are also loud while driving close to the apartments and houses. While dumping debris, the trucks produce a loud, explosive sound that causes nearby buildings to vibrate. This wakes up most people in the area and find it difficult to go back to sleep and are unable to function during the day. This is unfair to the residents of the area."

The issue began on August 28. After a complaint was made to the Whitefield police station on September 8, the work was halted for a day, and residents experienced a brief respite from the loud noises. However, the work resumed the next day, disrupting residents' sleep once again, they stated. The residents also pointed out that the activity violates regulations, as it involves dumping and levelling of low-lying lands. They noted that vegetation is being removed, trees are being felled, and greenery is being cleared by JCBs.

"The dumping of truckloads of debris at unearthly hours in Whitefield is disrupting the sleep of the entire area, particularly affecting an elderly home with over 200 senior citizens, as well as peaceful neighbourhoods like Prithvi Layout, Jatti Dwarakamai Layout, and various other apartments and layouts. The noise created by the tipper trucks is explosive. And the entire area vibrates with the noise. Also, there seems to be something shady about this hurried filling up of the wetlands next to the lake, it might be in the lake buffer zone or the rajakaluve or rajakaluve buffer zone, it needs investigation," said a resident.

The residents alleged that the companies are linked to Karnataka Energy Minister KJ George. However, KJ George's office clarified on social media that there is no connection. They said, "We would like to address the concerns raised regarding the landfill activities at the property located in Sy No 50 and 51/1, Whitefield. Whitefield Ventures LLP has owned the 10-acre property for 20 years. The landfill is necessary to resolve ongoing illegal sewage discharge from nearby residents, an issue that has persisted despite multiple complaints to Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). This activity is conducted in full compliance with regulations and is unrelated to the lake or any buffer zone. We have valid khata documentation and have paid Property Tax through 2024-25. We firmly deny the allegations and remain committed to responsible and legal development."

The Namma Whitefield group revealed that on Wednesday, the Whitefield PS inspector summoned site in charge Naveen Kumar for an explanation. Kumar stated that they did not intend to violate timings; the night-time dumping occurred due to an internal coordination failure and assured that it would not happen again.

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Dug-up footpath

Cox Town

Less than a month after being repaired, the footpath in Cox Town has been dug up again.

Maintenance lapses

Harinagar

Harinagar Cross Bus Stand, opposite the HP Petrol Station, remains in a dire state, with maintenance issues persisting for over a year.

Sewage spill

Cox Town

Sewage is overflowing onto the road on Wheelers Road near Shobhana School in Cox Town.

Cops are cracking down on high riders

Routine checks on stunt riders expose links to drug abuse; cops enforce breathalyser tests, medical examinations to check influence of alcohol or drugs

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The Bengaluru City Police (BCP) have adopted a zero-tolerance policy towards the rising menace of narcotics consumption among stunt performers. Traffic police are now enforcing mandatory breathalyser tests and medical examinations on all offenders, regardless of age, to check for the influence of alcohol or drugs.

According to city police officials, in the past year, Bengaluru's intensified crackdown on bike stunts and wheeling has not only curbed reckless behaviours among young riders but also exposed links to drug abuse. During routine checks on stunt riders over the past year, the traffic police discovered that offenders in four separate cases had consumed narcotics prior to performing dangerous stunts. Many of these riders claimed that drugs enhanced their "thrill" and gave them the courage to attempt high-risk manoeuvres. "Stunt riders believe that consuming drugs or alcohol gives them a sense of strength and boldness while performing," a senior police officer stated.

MN Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), said that with the rise in wheelie cases, the police have developed a standard operating procedure (SOP), which includes mandatory testing of offenders' blood for alcohol or drugs. "We are also intensifying enforcement by monitoring social media to track where these stunts are happening, and we take preventive legal actions by binding offenders with security bonds. If they violate these bonds, they face hefty fines. On one side, there's awareness, and on the other, strict enforcement; both are majorly important," he said.

'Many riders claimed that drugs enhanced their "thrill" and gave them the courage to attempt high-risk stunts'

> **Stunt riders believe that consuming drugs or alcohol gives them a sense of strength and boldness while performing**
>
> – Senior police officer

During a recent press conference, Police Commissioner B Dayananda highlighted that this issue is particularly alarming among youth, who view drug and alcohol consumption as a "cool" trend. To combat this growing issue, the police have launched awareness programs across schools and colleges, appointing marshals to aid in prevention efforts. Additionally, any information about drug use uncovered during traffic violations is shared with the law enforcement division. These cases are then followed up with counselling sessions, allowing law and order police to gather further details on the source of the drugs.

Anucheth further added that the families also need to be aware if their children are under the influence of drugs, stressing that today it might be a stunt, but tomorrow it could lead to serious harm to others or themselves. "It requires both firm action and counselling to tackle this issue, and if there's any negligence on the parents' part, the police holds them accountable under the Juvenile Justice Act," he said.

Traffic expert suggests underground parking systems to solve city's choke issues

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With Bengaluru's vehicle count reaching 1.4 crore, the city's roads are becoming increasingly congested. The streets are well-known for being cluttered with parked vehicles along the sides, leaving only a narrow space for two-way traffic. To tackle this issue, Professor MN Sreehari, a traffic and infrastructure expert, suggests a solution: the introduction of underground parking systems.

Bengaluru already has underground markets that have seamlessly integrated into the urban landscape, and extending this concept to parking is a practical next step. One of the key benefits of underground parking is that it preserves the city's infrastructure. Without disrupting the parks, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) can construct multi-level underground parking facilities on a pay-and-park basis. This would not only provide secure parking options for the public but also generate revenue for the BBMP by efficiently utilising the underground space, he says.

'Roads in Bengaluru are becoming increasingly congested'

Shreehari also states the importance of enforcement in making this initiative work. "It's a slow process, and the public needs to cooperate. But with consistent enforcement and a gradual shift in mindset, the results will speak for themselves," he said.

Shiva Prakash Devaraju, DCP of South Traffic, told BM, "This is a good idea of constructing parking spaces; it would definitely ease up the streets. More importantly, it would create an eco-friendly solution to the growing traffic problem. But this initiative is not just about decluttering the roads. It's about rethinking how urban spaces are used. With more space dedicated to traffic movement, the city will feel less congested. Pedestrians will have safer footpaths, vehicles will move more freely, and the overall quality of life in the city will be improved."

Festive rush: Traffic cops will not get offs

In preparation for the upcoming festive season, Bengaluru's traffic police force has been instructed to forgo all off days for the next 10 days to ensure smooth traffic management across the city. In a recent review meeting, MN Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), announced that no weekly or incidental leave would be granted to personnel, except in cases of medical emergencies. He emphasised that the additional workload required full commitment from the force, pulling up officers for showing a relaxed attitude while on duty.

In a serious advisory, officers were warned against sitting cross-legged on motorcycles while booking cases or during special drives. "The police force is known for its discipline and integrity. Such actions tarnish that image," the advisory stated. Officers are now required to wear caps and reflective jackets at all times, and strict action will be taken against those violating these rules. Further, it mandated that Cobra traffic patrol units must keep their devices on at all times while on duty, as they are the first responders to emergencies.

While some traffic police officers have welcomed the push for stricter discipline, several expressed frustration over the increased workload and lack of days off during the festive season. Many officers, despite fixed work hours, often find themselves working over 10 hours a day, adding to the mounting pressure. The increased pressure on the traffic force follows Home Minister G Parameshwar's directive during a senior officers' meeting.

–Atiya Firdos

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Light at end of the tunnel: Pink line nears completion

Metro construction hits 96%; BEML driverless train prototypes underway for airport line

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The tunnel construction for the Pink Line, running from Kalena Agrahara to Nagawara, is now 96% complete and is expected to be finished by the end of November. In the second phase of construction, the tunnel from Dairy Circle to Nagawara, which spans 21,249 metres, has seen 20,557 metres (96.7%) completed. Of the nine Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) used for this project, seven have completed their tasks.

Recently, the Tunga Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM), which was tunnelling from KG Halli to Nagawara station, has completed its task and emerged, marking 98% completion of the tunnelling work for this section. The Bhadra TBM continues its operations. At the Nagawara station's cut-and-cover shaft, the Tunga TBM has completed 936.6 metres of tunnelling. This eight-month-long project was initiated on February 3 at the Kadugondanahalli station.

The Bhadra TBM is set to complete its work by the end of November, having already finished over 50% of its task. In addition to tunnelling, civil works and track installation are underway.

An official said, "Phase-2 of the project, known as Reach-6, covers 21.26 km from Kalena Agrahara to Nagawara, with 18 stations. The first 7.50 km is elevated, with six stations from Kalena Agrahara to Swagath Road, while the remaining 13.76 km is underground, from Dairy Circle to Nagawara, featuring 12 stations.

Tunga TBM has finished its tunnelling from KG Halli to Nagawara, reaching 98% completion

"Tunnelling work was divided into three phases. The first phase covered Shadi Mahal to Venkateshpura, second phase spanned Venkateshpura to KG Halli –Official

Additional civil works, including track installation, are underway at those places where the tunnel boring is completed. In the underground section from Tavarekere to Nagawara, 11% of the track plinth casting has been completed. On the elevated section from Tavarekere to Kalena Agrahara, 62% of the track plinth casting is done. Station construction is also progressing rapidly, with the route expected to be open for commercial operations by the end of 2025. The tunnelling work was divided into three phases. The first phase covered Shadi Mahal to Venkateshpura, and the second phase spanned Venkateshpura to KG Halli, both of which were completed. The third phase, from KG Halli to Nagawara, is being executed by the Tunga and Bhadra TBMs. Tunga started southward on February 2, and Bhadra began northward on April 2. In completed sections, ring segments are already being installed."

Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) has commenced the prototype manufacturing of driverless metro train sets for the 5RS-DM Project, specifically designed to serve the Airport Line. BEML secured this significant contract for 53 trainsets in August 2023, prevailing over intense global competition. The project, worth approximately INR 3,177 crore, includes the design, manufacture, supply, installation, testing, and commissioning of the trainsets, along with comprehensive maintenance services for up to 15 years as part of the Bangalore Metro Rail Project Phases 2, 2A, and 2B.

BEML is the first Indian company to design, develop, manufacture, and supply driverless train sets. The trains will be equipped with an IP-based Passenger Announcement (PA) and Passenger Information System (PIS), along with a Passenger Saloon Surveillance System (PSSS) for real-time station updates. The system will also include an LCD-based Dynamic Route Map display.

Pedestrian link to ITPL

An agreement has been signed between Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) and Information Technology Park Limited to construct a raised pedestrian walkway connecting Pattandur Agrahara Metro station to the IT Park (ITPL) campus. This walkway, funded by ITPL at a cost of 10 crore, will benefit around 50,000 daily commuters. The agreement, which lasts for 30 years, is part of the second phase of the extended metro line between Doddathoguru and Whitefield, and the number of employees is expected to surpass 60,000 by 2025. This walkway will allow for direct access to ITPL without the need to cross roads.

HC approves tree-cutting

The Karnataka High Court has granted Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited permission to cut 41 trees and relocate 20 more to facilitate the construction of the HSR Layout Metro station under Phase 2. BMRCL's senior counsel informed the court that tree removal and relocation had already been approved by tree authorities and officers on July 20, and requested the court's permission for the process to continue. The court directed that for every tree removed, 10 saplings should be planted, and a status report on the condition of relocated trees should be submitted every three months. The High Court granted BMRCL permission to remove 41 trees and relocate 20 trees as per the official memorandum issued by the authorities on July 20, 2024.

Western Ghats threatened by railway line expansion

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MMinister of State for Railway V Somanna announced that a meeting with Railway Minister Ashwini Vishwanath will soon be arranged to discuss and expedite the Hubballi-Ankola railway line project.

The announcement has once again sparked debate around the proposed railway line and its adverse impact on the fragile ecosystem of Western Ghats.

Conservationists say the project will spell doom for wildlife and forest cover standing in the proposed project area.

"The endemic and endangered fauna and flora of this ecologically sensitive area cannot bear the impact of tremors and vibrations of railway track construction procedures. It will cause irreversible damage and permanent habitat loss. The Minister should not have spoken about expediting the project without addressing gaps/discrepancies and issues raised by the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life committee members in 2022," said a city-based wildlife conservationist.

Notably, the rail line project has faced multiple obstacles since its announcement by the Ministry of Railway in 1997-98. The South Western Railways had then requested the Government of Karnataka for diversion of forestland for the project but it failed to get clearance from the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) in 2006.

It was again recommended by the state government but CEC reiterated rejection in its report to the Supreme Court. The case was then transferred to the Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

Following directions of the NGT, a fresh proposal was submitted in 2016 by reducing the requirement of forest

Conservationists say rail line project threatens wildlife & trees

area from 667 hectares (ha) to about 595.04ha. Following this, the state government recommended to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) for approval of the diversion of the said forest land. In 2017, a regional empowered committee was constituted by the MoEF&CC to inspect the proposed site and submit its report. The report highlighted that the proposed railway line passes through the Western Ghats Biodiversity Hotspot, Western Ghats World Heritage Site, and Eco-sensitive Zone, and therefore a critical appraisal of the project from the wildlife conservation perspective needs to be done.

In 2018, the state government submitted a proposal to the MoEF&CC for the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SCNBWL), bypassing the State Board for Wildlife. The State Chief Wildlife Warden approved it with the condition that mitigation measures from an Indian Institute of Science (IISc) study be strictly followed.

In 2020, the State Board for Wildlife recommended the project to the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SCNBWL). Following a court order, the SCNBWL decided to form a committee to review the proposal, conduct inspections, and consult stakeholders.

"The committee recommends that the proposal can be considered only when all gaps and issues raised by the committee members are addressed to minimise ecological loss. While a fresh submission is still pending approval, announcing the expedition of the project is outrageous," said a wildlife activist.

Debate on SBWL appointment relights

Conservationists worry that the controversial appointment of State Board of Wildlife (SBWL) members will lead to a conflict of interest.

They emphasise that V Somanna highlighted Minister for Infrastructure Development MB Patil's request to accelerate the project to improve port connectivity and support industrial growth. Notably, MB Patil's son is a member of the State Board for Wildlife. "Being the minister for infrastructure development, MB Patil will push these proposals. However, with his son as a member of the state wildlife board is controversial and raises the issue of conflict of interest," said a conservationist.

In memory of martyrs

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Forest Minister Eswar Khandre, forest officials and police personnel pay tribute to martyrs during the National Forest Martyrs Day at Aranya Bhavan in Bengaluru on Wednesday

When will these RO plants open?

3 RO plants were inaugurated by MLA at Shivajinagar with much fanfare on August 19. But for some reason, they are yet to be opened to public

Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has constructed three reverse osmosis (RO) plants at different locations at Halasuru in Shivajinagar Assembly constituency. The BBMP made arrangements to inaugurate these RO plants by Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad on August 19. These RO plants and a skill development centre were inaugurated with much fanfare and gaiety. However, since then there has been no action at these facilities.

Residents said that they do not know why the BBMP has not opened these plants to the public yet. They said the purpose of installing the plants is to ensure clean drinking water at an affordable price for the residents. "I do not know why the RO plant situated on Halasuru Road opposite Dr BR Ambedkar statue is still locked though it has already been inaugurated by our MLA," said a resident.

Demanding the BBMP take measures to open the RO plants as early as possible for the benefit of residents who cannot afford to buy drinking water from private water suppliers, BR Chandran, a social activist from Halasuru, said the construction of the RO plants took much time. "I was told that there is competition among the followers of our MLA to get the rights to maintain these RO plants. The BBMP took much time in identifying the suitable locations for the construction of the RO plants. Now, the civic body is taking some more time to open the RO plants to the public," said Chandran.

One of the RO plants that was inaugurated in Halasuru is still shuttered down

> **"We are planning to float a tender inviting bidders for the maintenance of these newly constructed RO plants**
>
> –BBMP Executive Engineer (Shivajinagar)

A resident, pleading anonymity, said the BBMP has wasted taxpayers' money by constructing a RO plant on the 2nd Street of Halasuru near Jamia Masjid. "I do not know why the BBMP constructed a RO plant on the 2nd Street as there is a water tank that already exists on 3rd Street, a few hundred metres away from the newly constructed RO plant. It is nothing but a sheer waste of money and lack of foresight," said the resident.

The third RO plant has been constructed adjacent to the storm water drain at MV Garden.

BBMP Executive Engineer (Shivajinagar) told BM the BBMP does not want to hand over the RO plants to people free of cost. "We want to generate revenue to the BBMP from these RO plants. We are planning to float a tender inviting bidders for the maintenance of these newly constructed RO plants," said the executive engineer.

Bangalore Mirror had published a story - A bid to commercialise RO plants in Bengaluru - on January 29, 2024, narrating how the BBMP has decided to curb political influence and generate revenue by floating tenders to invite bidders for the maintenance of 600 RO plants for improved water quality and transparency.

Factory workers detained for assault in Anekal

Three factory workers were detained by the Anekal police after allegedly assaulting a coworker, Shivalinga, over what began as a minor disagreement but soon escalated into a heated argument about language and the presence of outsiders in the area.

The police registered a case based on the complaint of 40-year-old Shivalinga, who claimed that the accused—identified as Manu, Ansari, and another worker from Uttar Pradesh—had been hostile toward him for the past week. According to Shivalinga, the trio, unfamiliar with the local language, displayed arrogance and caused problems at the workplace.

The incident unfolded on Wednesday morning when, during work hours, one of the accused reportedly extended his leg, attempting to trip Shivalinga as he passed by. When Shivalinga confronted them, the accused demanded he speak in Hindi. This led to a heated argument, during which one of the accused allegedly assaulted Shivalinga with a metal object found nearby. Shivalinga sustained head injuries and was taken to a local hospital, where he received stitches.

As news of the incident spread, local residents gathered in support of Shivalinga, calling for strict action against the accused. The residents also voiced their frustration over the increasing number of migrant workers taking jobs that locals feel should be reserved for them, accusing factory owners of favoring outsiders who are willing to work for lower wages.

However, during the investigation, police revealed that the altercation had initially stemmed from a disagreement over the use of strong perfume by the accused, which Shivalinga had objected to. The communication barrier between Shivalinga and the accused, who do not speak Kannada, likely contributed to the situation escalating into an assault, according to a police officer. The investigation is ongoing. **BMB**

Shock after assault video goes viral

A young man was beaten by a group of 5-6 individuals on HAL Road near Rao Satellite Centre on Tuesday night, an incident that was captured on video by a local resident. The disturbing footage, shared on social media platform X, shows the victim being dragged, punched, and kicked repeatedly by the attackers.

The assault took place on 1st Main Road, under the jurisdiction of Jeevan Bhima Nagar police station. In the video, the group is seen laughing while inflicting the blows, throwing the victim to the ground and continuing their attack.

Despite the violent nature of the incident, the police said that no formal complaint has been lodged yet. However, they have initiated an investigation based on the viral video circulating online. **BMB**

Low rental demand sparks worries for home-owners

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and come with basic amenities, yet some of them have not been sold. Therefore, we are considering negotiations with private builders to help sell the remaining flats."

Even rental demand has been low. Those who have bought flats in areas such as Kaniminike, Konadasapura, Alur Phase 1, Valagerehalli, Gunjur, Tippasandra, and others are finding it difficult to rent them out.

For example, Supriya, a resident of Vijayanagar, explained, "Two years ago, we took a loan to buy a 2BHK flat in Kaniminike. Since we have a loan to repay, we thought of renting the flat out for a couple of years, so we even spent on interior work. However, no tenants have shown interest. It's too far for us to live there, so we are not in a position to move in either."

Poor sales

In Kaniminike Phase 2, a total of 672 2BHK flats are available at a price of Rs 25 lakh. Out of these, 207 have been allocated, leaving 465 unsold, which is approximately 69.2% of the total flats. In Kaniminike Phase 3, 288 2BHK flats priced at Rs 30 lakh were offered, with 68 sold and 220 remaining (76.4%) of the flats unsold.

Similarly, in Kaniminike Phase 4, 108 3BHK flats priced at Rs 40 lakh

were available. Out of these, 65 have been sold, leaving 43 unsold. At Konadasapura, 672 2BHK flats are priced between Rs 48 and Rs 52.65 lakh. Of these, 542 have been sold, leaving 130 unsold. Alur Phase 1, which offers 1BHK flats at Rs 13.20 lakh, has 1504 units in total. Out of these, 847 have been allocated, leaving 657 unsold. In Valagerahalli Phase 1, there are 640 1BHK flats priced at Rs 13.20 lakh, with 602 sold and 38 unsold, which accounts for just 5.9% of the units remaining.

Valagerahalli Phase 2 also offers 1BHK flats at Rs 13.20 lakh, with a total of 680 units. Of these, 596 have been sold. Gunjur Phase 1 offers 364 1BHK flats at Rs 13.20 lakh, with 232 allocated.

Gunjur Phase 2 has 168 2BHK flats priced at Rs 15.50 lakh, with 136 sold. Lastly, in Tippasandra, 312 1BHK flats priced at Rs 13.20 lakh are available, of which 145 have been sold and 167 remain unsold.

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NOTICES

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CHANGE OF NAME

I Annapurna C w/o Dakshina Murthy B M R/o No 95, 3rd cross, behind Ragigudda temple, ksrtc layout, JP Nagar, 2nd phase B'lore-560078 have changed my name to Poornima Dakshina Murthy for all purposes.

I, Shri Ganesh Maharshi H S/o Hanumantharaju D T R/o #1407 HMT Layout Nagasandra MN Rd B'lore-560073 have changed my name to Sri Ganesh Maharshi.

I, Srinivasa Basavanahalli Rangappa R/o No.152, Kallukote, Sira Tq, Tumkur 572137 present camp at Bengaluru have changed my name to Shrinivas Basavanahalli Rangappa Affidavit Dt.11/09/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Prashanth S/O E. Mohanan R/O 100, 1st Cross, Greenwood Layout PH 2, TC Palya PO, Varanasi-Jinkethimanahalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka, PIN-560036 India have changed my name to PRASHANTH MOHANAN MENON for all future purposes.

I Anilkumar Manjulamma Gokarna S/O, Gokarna Marikunte Banappa R/o 22 S F-1 6th Cross 6th Block Nagarabhavi 2nd Stage Bengaluru - 560072 have changed my name to Anilkumar Marikunte Gokarna.

I Syed Amanullah S/o, Syed Saifullah Syed Asadullah R/o #33, 3rd Main, Maruthi Layout, BTM First Stage, Bengaluru - 560029 have changed my name to Syed Amanullah Saifullah for all purposes.

I, Syed Zikria S/o Syed Kaleem Ulla R/o #9 3rd Cross, Brothers Colony Ganapathi Nagar B'luru-560090 have changed my name to Syed Zikaria for all purposes.

I, D.Priya W/o T.Kalaiarasu R/o 501B, Ranka Colony, Bilekahalli, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru 560076 have changed my name to K Priya Affidavit Dt.11/09/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Priyankana Kar R/o No.1268, 9th cross, 4th block, 4th main, HBR Lyt, Kalyananagar, Bengaluru 560043 have changed my name to Priyankana Nagaraj Affidavit Dt.11/09/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Rosalin Hepsibha D/o Alexander R/o No AS2, Suram Residency No 97 3rd Crs, Varadaraja Swamy Lyt, 2nd Stage, Singapura B'lore-560097 have changed my name to Roselin Hepsibha for all purposes

I, Sakkariya A C (Sakkariya Adakkaden Candy) R/o 346 AECS Layout B Block Singasandra B'luru-560068 have changed my name to Sakariya A C (Sakariya Adakkaden Candy) for all purposes.

I, Vasudev Prabhu Residing at No. MA-1204, Mulberry Tower, A-Wing, Parkwest, Binny Mill Road, Magadi Road, Bangalore-560023, Have changed our minor daughter name VASUDA PRABHU to VASUDA VASUDEV PRABHU vide affidavit dtd 10/09/2024 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

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All you need to know about...

Care for bags

Importance of care
"The care of handbags is not just a routine; it's an art, a testament to the fusion of fashion and preservation," says Vani Talwar, Co-founder of Tidy Up who shares some key steps in maintaining your handbags' allure and integrity.

Use Dustbags
Preserving your handbags' elegance begins with a simple yet impactful step: embracing dust bags. Choose wisely when it comes to dust bag materials, steering clear of plastics that can harm delicate surfaces and the environment. Embrace breathable fabrics like cotton, allowing your bags to rest comfortably.

Organise And Declutter
Declutter by parting ways with items that no longer serve a purpose and continue straining your bag's form and function. With well-designed compartments, organisers create an oasis of order, offering quick access with minimal handling. They act as protective allies, ensuring your bag's interior remains protected.

Shield Your Bags
The journey of bag care extends beyond the physical; it's like a ritual. Small actions make significant differences. Shield your bags from lotions and fragrances by allowing absorption before contact. Handle stains and colour transfers delicately with specialised solutions for luxury materials only. Protect against water exposure by avoiding direct contact, especially during monsoon.

Smart Storage
Managing a burgeoning bag collection requires ingenuity. Resist the allure of boxing up bags; instead, let them breathe. While they might seem protected, bags need to breathe and risk damage like sticky patent leather, cracking, or molding. In tight spaces, embrace shelf dividers for wrinkle-free elegance, while spacious walls invite decorative hooks that stylishly safeguard your bags. While using hooks, prioritise strap strength to avert damage, enabling your bags to retain their pristine state.

—Femina

GET SOME SHUT-EYE

No-sleep challenge: the dangers of sleep deprivation

Most of us will be all too familiar with that dopey, groggy feeling of being tired after a restless night. Some social media users have taken tiredness to the extreme, however, by taking part in what they call a "no-sleep challenge."

One 19-year-old Youtuber, Norme, live streamed his attempt to break a world record for consecutive days without sleep. At the 250-hour mark, viewers voiced concerns about Norme's health and wellbeing but he eventually finished with a "no sleep" time of 264 hours and 24 minutes.

Norme's attempt earned him bans from social media platforms YouTube and Kick. But, despite his claims to have beaten the world record, his ordeal was not enough to beat the last Guinness World Record holder Robert Mcdonald, who racked up 453 hours – almost 19 days! – in 1986.

In 1997, Guinness World Records stopped monitoring the record for the longest time without sleep for safety reasons – and they were quite right. Going without sleep for extended periods of time can prove extremely dangerous.

Adults should aim for more than seven hours' sleep per night on a regular basis. Chronic inability to get sufficient sleep is associated with increased risk of multiple conditions such as depression, diabetes, obesity, heart attack, hypertension and stroke.

Sleep is an important part of our daily routine. It enables many of our bodily systems to rest and focus on repair and recovery.

During the first three stages of sleep, the parasympathetic nervous system – which regulates rest and digestion – takes control. This reduces reduces heart rate and blood pressure.

In the final stage, the rapid eye movement (REM) stage, heart activity increases and eyes move – this stage is key to cognitive functions such as creativity, learning and memory. Alcohol or caffeine consumption prior to bed can disturb these sleep cycles.

Sleep deprivation can be acute or chronic. Acute deprivation can happen over a day or two.

While it may seem like a short period of time, 24 hours of sleep deprivation can cause a greater degree of functional impairment than being just over the drink-drive limit. Symptoms of acute sleep deprivation can include puffy eyes or dark under-eyes, irritability, cognitive decline, brain fog and food cravings.

> **Sleep is an important part of our daily routine. It enables many of our bodily systems to rest and focus on repair and recovery**

During the second day without sleep, symptoms increase in intensity and behavioural changes occur, as well as a further decline in cognitive functions. The body's need for sleep becomes stronger causing "microsleeps" – involuntary naps lasting around 30 seconds.

The body's need for food increases as well as physiological responses such as systemic inflammation and impaired immune response, making us more susceptible to illness.

The third 24-hour period can trigger a desperate urge to sleep, increasing likelihood of longer microsleeps, depersonalisation – feelings of detachment from reality – and hallucinations. Once into day four of sleeplessness, all symptoms become much worse progressing to sleep deprivation psychosis where you're unable to interpret reality and possess a painful desire to sleep.

Recovery from sleep deprivation varies from person to person, with a solid overnight sleep being enough for some to recover. For others it can take days or weeks.

However, studies have shown that recovery sleep often doesn't reverse the metabolic changes that can cause weight gain and a decrease in insulin sensitivity, even from relatively short periods of sleep deprivation.

Shift workers can be continually sleep deprived. Night shift workers typically average one-to-four hours' less sleep per day than people whose work time falls within daylight hours – and this can increase their risk of early death.

In fact many studies have shown too little sleep is associated with an increased risk of death. But too much sleep has also been associated with an increased risk of death.

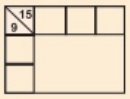
It's best for health, then, to avoid the social media challenges and instead opt for good sleep hygiene to get your seven-to-nine hours of quality shut-eye. Your body will thank you for it.

(By Adam Taylor, Lancaster University, The Conversation)

mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

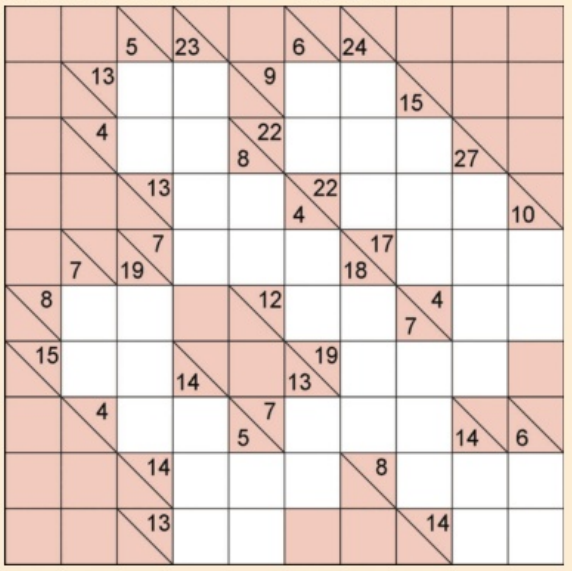
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

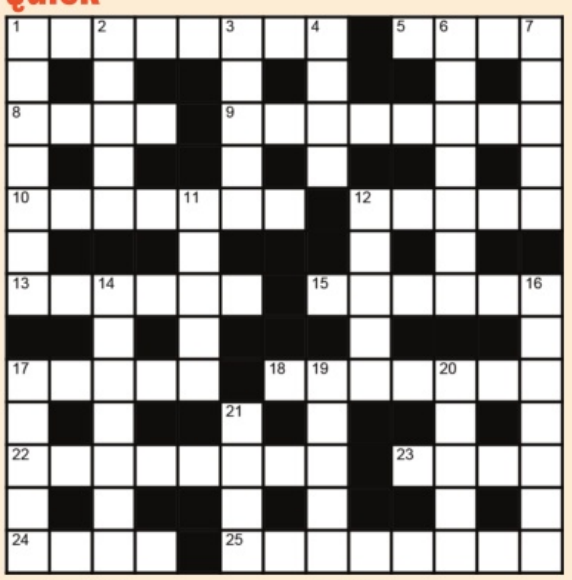


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Admitting defeat (6,2)
5 A small stain (4)
8 Small cut (4)
9 Half-hearted (4-4)
10 Put in order (7)
12 Twist together; plaited tress of hair (5)
13 Move restlessly (6)
15 Absorb or assimilate (6)
17 Feline (5)
18 __ out : protruding outward? (7)
22 Strong cricketing shot (3,5)
23 Satirical piece (4)
24 A friend in need (4)
25 Protector (8)

DOWN

1 Tolkien's wizard (7)
2 Clergyman (5)
3 Russian prison camp (5)
4 Jab or prod at (4)
6 Appease (7)
7 Subdued (5)
11 Impoverished (5)
12 Constructed (5)
14 Willing to obey (7)
16 More close-fitting (7)
17 Dynasty which ruled the area around Bangalore in the 11th century (5)
19 Made __ __ : employed ? (3,2)
20 Annoyed (5)
21 Gentle in temper (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: P EQUALS I

PDB'L PL DLVTBMY LCTL UY LTJQ JYTDL TEZGL LCY LCPBMD UY LCPBQ TEZGL FZDL?

Linemaro

Even the sun is jealous of the way you shine

Mindchow

People wait all week for Friday, all year for summer and all life for happiness

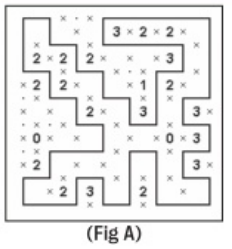
Joke of the day

Can't believe how arrogant Russian dolls are. They are all so full of themselves

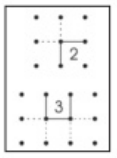
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

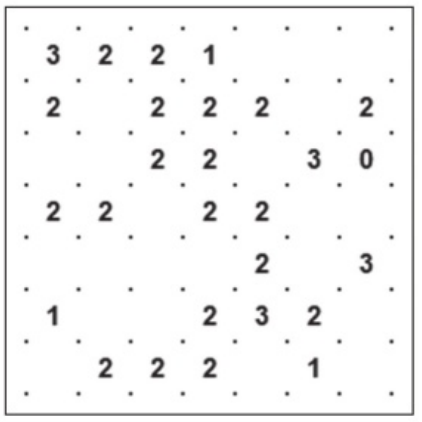


(Fig B) Not Allowed

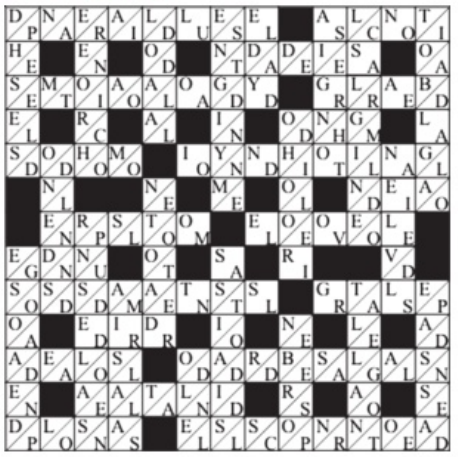
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



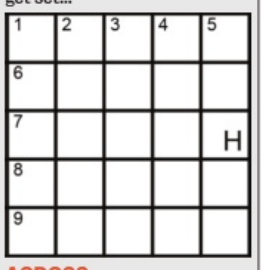
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Pa pap; 6 Sri AR;
7 H mist; 8 Et set;
9 Manat

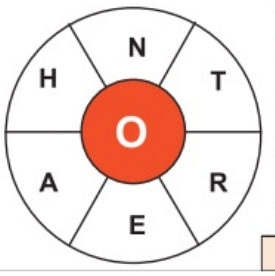
DOWN

1 As apt; 2 Mater;
3 Prims; 4 Pit at;
5 An she

Mensapuzzle

Solve this dingbat:

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

19 Average; 21 Good; 23 Outstanding

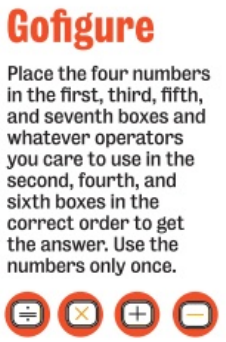
SudokuChallenge

	5	7				9	4	
		9	7		1	2		
	6			3			7	
8				7				9
		3		1		4		
9				6				8
	4			2			9	
		2	5		8	6		
	9	6				7	8	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 4

2 3 6 8

Medium = 2

3 6 7 9

Hard = 5

1 3 5 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

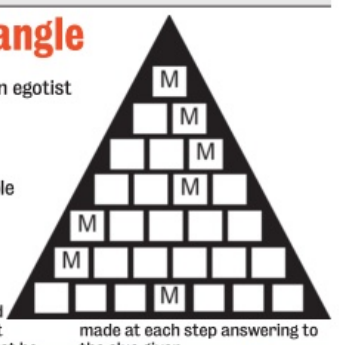
Differences: 1. Woman's coat collar is missing. 2. Leaf is different. 3. Hair is different. 4. Arm is lower. 5. Hat is different. 6. Light is moved.

Riddler

Rearrange the letter groups to make four ports: FOR, TOD, URA, IRO, VEN, NAV, DHA, ANE, SAN, ENT, NGO, MIL, DEJ, BUE, OMI, RIO.

Alpha triangle

1 One thousand
2 Contraction for an egotist
3 Intention
4 Kind of bean
5 Italian city
6 Slander
7 Holding responsible

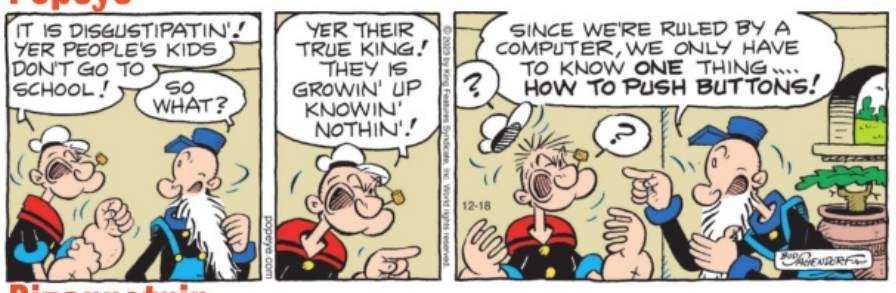


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

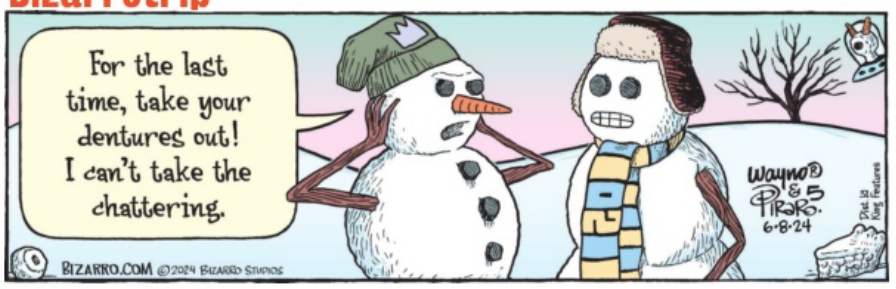
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

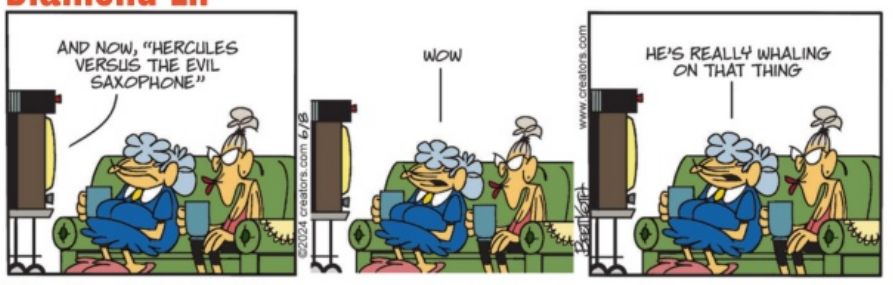
Popeye


IT IS DISGUSTIPATIN'! YER PEOPLE'S KIDS DON'T GO TO SCHOOL!
SO WHAT?
YER THEIR TRUE KING! THEY IS GROWIN' UP KNOWIN' NOTHIN'!
SINCE WE'RE RULED BY A COMPUTER, WE ONLY HAVE TO KNOW ONE THING.... HOW TO PUSH BUTTONS!
?
?
12-18
BUD SAGENDORF

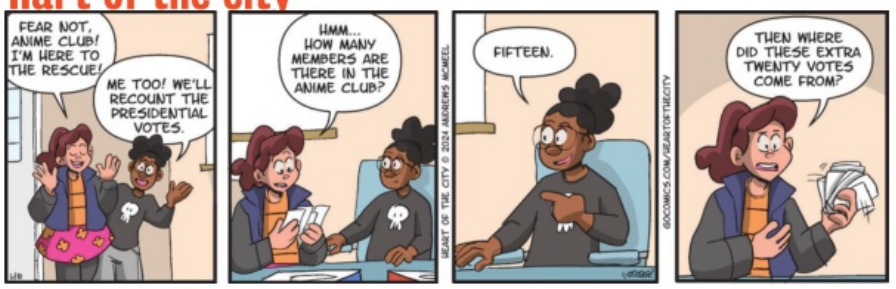
Bizarrotrip


For the last time, take your dentures out! I can't take the chattering.
Wayno & Piraro 6-8-24
BIZARRO.COM ©2024 BIZARRO STUDIOS
Dist. by King Features

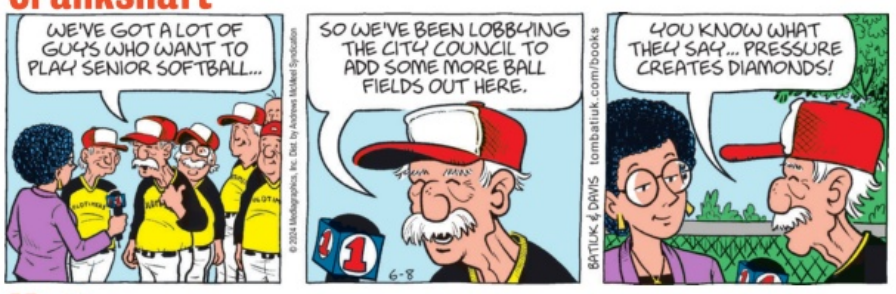
Diamond Lil



Hart of the city


FEAR NOT, ANIME CLUB! I'M HERE TO THE RESCUE!
ME TOO! WE'LL RECOUNT THE PRESIDENTIAL VOTES.
HMM... HOW MANY MEMBERS ARE THERE IN THE ANIME CLUB?
FIFTEEN.
THEN WHERE DID THESE EXTRA TWENTY VOTES COME FROM?
HEART OF THE CITY © 2024 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@DCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


WE'VE GOT A LOT OF GUYS WHO WANT TO PLAY SENIOR SOFTBALL...
SO WE'VE BEEN LOBBYING THE CITY COUNCIL TO ADD SOME MORE BALL FIELDS OUT HERE.
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY... PRESSURE CREATES DIAMONDS!
6-8
BATILK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon; your destiny is likely to be with you. You may be more energetic and focused on your work. Your hard work may pay you in terms of success. Your colleagues may help you today, and you are likely to go for short work-related travel. You may also hear some good news from your sibling(s).

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may be busy with family matters; you may take some important decisions on the domestic front. You should avoid making arguments in personal life matters. Your arrogance may affect your domestic harmony. By late evening, things may be under control. You are advised to follow your intuition before making investments in the business.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may feel peace in the mind; messy situations are now under control. You may be able to make a proper balance in expenditures and earnings, which may increase your financial health. You are advised to avoid too much travelling or overworking; it may affect your health. Students may start planning for their future. Lovebirds may enjoy their happy moments.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today until evening, you may enjoy your work and domestic life. You may recover some amount that was stuck somewhere. From late evening, you may feel dull; some unknown fear may make you upset. You may get stressed, which may affect your sound sleep. It is advised to do meditation.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
You may be blessed by the moon today. Your disappointment may now convert into happiness. You may be more focused on your targets. You are likely to use your creativity to make some changes in your office or house. You may also find your love around you. Lovebirds are advised to avoid fantasy in the relationship. Students may avoid speculations in their studies.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be busy at work; your communication skills may help to get a big order, which may grow your business. You are likely to meet some influential person who will help you grow your business; your family may support you in a difficult decision at work. You are advised to control your speech in love matters. Lovebirds are advised to control straightforwardness in their conversations.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may have the full support of your parents, and you may get good success at work, which is related to a government project. Your terms with management are likely to improve, which may have benefits in your business or work. You may plan for overseas work-related travel. You can have some infections; you are advised to drink plenty of water and use lemon in your food.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be a victim of unknown fear; some sort of negative may reflect in your thoughts. Impatient nature and arrogance may push you back to take difficult decisions at work. You are likely to seek the blessing of your elders, which may help you to come out of the messy situation. You are advised to avoid making investments in dead assets. Lovebirds are also advised to avoid discussing worthless topics.

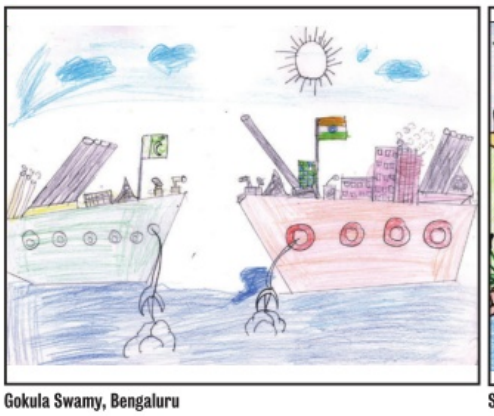
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may start your day with good feelings. You may have patience; it may reflect in your way of working. You may enjoy at work. You may be optimistic in terms of gains in the business. You may have an emotional bond with the spouse, which may increase family harmony. Job seekers may hear good news.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today is a good day at work; you may perform well. You may lead your team efficiently. Your focus towards work may be appreciated by your boss; you may also get some promotion in terms of rewards. Job seekers may get new jobs. Singles are likely to fall in love with someone at work. Architects, artists, and traders will do better.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today is important for domestic life. You may be busy with kids; you may hear some good news in terms of their education. You may buy some creative stuff for home or office to maintain your social status. You are advised to use wisdom while buying some stuff. Natives related to military, management, electronics, and medicine will do better.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may be dissatisfied. People around you may not cooperate with you. You are advised to keep patience. You are also advised to read documents carefully before signing any contracts. Making new investments in useless stuff may be a bottleneck for you. Students are advised to read their subjects with patience.

KIDZONE



Gokula Swamy, Bengaluru

Spoorthi Srinivas, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
31 x 31/4
6 x 6/4
36/4 = 9

RIDDLER
Buenaventura, Milford Haven, Santo Domingo, Rio de Janeiro

STRIKE OUT

D	O	S	S	■	E	S	C	O	R	T	E	D	■	■
■	E	■	L	■	A	■	R	■	E	■	L	■	■	■
D	E	L	L	O	D	D	B	A	L	L	S	■	■	■
A	■	D	I	D	■	O	■	E	■	L	A	■	■	■
■	■	E	■	O	D	D	M	E	N	T	S	■	R	A	S	E	■	■
■	■	G	N	U	■	T	■	A	■	R	■	D	■	■
■	■	E	P	S	O	M	■	L	E	V	E	E	■	■
■	■	N	■	N	■	E	■	L	■	N	E	O	■	■
S	O	H	O	■	I	N	D	I	T	I	N	G	■	■
N	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
L	■	C	■	I	■	O	H	M	■	A	■	■	■	■
E	■	O	■	N	A	D	I	A	■	O	■	■	■	■
E	T	I	O	L	O	G	Y	■	G	R	A	B	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

FAST FIVE

P	A	P	P	A
A	R	R	I	S
A	T	M	A	N
T	E	S	T	E
S	M	I	T	H

QUOTE UNCODE
Isn't it strange that we talk least about the things we think about most?

QUICK

A	L	L	Y	■	D	E	F	E	N	D	E	R	■	■
L	■	U	■	■	L	■	O	■	E	■	E	■	■	■
O	F	F	D	R	I	V	E	■	S	K	I	T	■	■
H	■	I	■	M	■	S	■	■	R	■	H	■	■	■
C	A	T	T	Y	■	J	U	T	T	I	N	G	■	■
■	■	U	■	D	■	■	■	L	■	■	■	I	■	■
F	I	D	G	E	T	■	D	I	G	E	S	T	■	■
L	■	■	■	E	■	■	■	U	■	■	■	■	■	■
A	R	R	A	N	G	E	■	B	R	A	I	D	■	■
D	■	A	■	E	■	C	■	E	■	■	■	■	■	■
A	■	I	■	U	■	O	■	L	■	A	■	■	■	■
N	■	C	K	L	U	K	E	W	A	R	M	■	■	■
G	I	V	I	N	G	U	P	■	S	P	O	T	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
home away from home

BULL'S EYE
aeon, ANOTHER, atone, hero, heron, hone, horn, hornet, thorn, throne, tone, roan, rote, tenor, orate, ornate, other, north, note, oath, toner, tore, torn

SUDOKU

3	5	7	2	8	6	9	4	1
4	8	9	7	5	1	2	3	6
2	6	1	9	3	4	8	7	5
8	1	5	4	7	2	3	6	9
6	2	3	8	1	9	4	5	7
9	7	4	3	6	5	1	2	8
1	4	8	6	2	7	5	9	3
7	3	2	5	9	8	6	1	4
5	9	6	1	4	3	7	8	2

ALPHA TRIANGLE
M, I'm, Alm, Lima, Milan, Malign, Blaming.

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 x 3 + 6 - 8 = 4
Medium
3 x 6 - 7 - 9 = 2
Hard
5 + 3 - 3 / 1 = 5

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # Change of routine Megastar Amitabh Bachchan shared that his work and day routine has undergone a change as he now rises and rests early

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Unique title

Director RK Gandhi, who has helmed two Telugu movies, is set to make his debut in Sandalwood with Ee Cinemage Climax Iruvudilla (No climax for this movie). Its muhurat function was held at Sri Maheswaramma Devi Temple at Hoskote. Social activist Satyavara Nagesh switched on the camera while Village Panchayat president Kamalesh sounded the clapboard. RK Gandhi told BM that he selected the title for this movie as per the script. "The movie's shoot is in progress in and around Hoskote taluk. The specialty of the movie is Prabhakar, who played Kalakeya in Bahubali movie. He is playing the villain in this movie," said Gandhi.

According to the director, the movie revolves around six youths who go on a trip to Goa. "What happens to the them when they encountered a stranger in Goa is what the movie is about," the director said.

Song for Interval

The team of Interval has released a peppy song of the movie on the occasion of Ganesh festival. The movie has created a buzz among the movie buffs when its first look poster was released a few days ago.

The song – Gana Gana Ganapathi Function Hello Everybody – is sung by Chandan Shetty, a well-known rapper. Lyricist Vijay Eshwar has written the lyrics while Vikas Vasishta has scored its music. Bharat Varsh, basically an engineer, is helming the movie. It is his maiden movie in Sandalwood. "I have a passion towards movies during my college days. I did a few short films but I did not work under any director," said Bharat Varsh. The director said the movie is about engineering students from rural areas. "The movie highlights the problems of average engineering students and how they struggle to get jobs at software companies and how finally they get jobs and settle in life. A few real incidents are the inspiration for me to write this script but it is a fiction with some interesting elements," said Varsh.

The director said shooting of the movie is completed except for one song. "Most of the post-production work is completed. We will start shooting for the song in Bengaluru next week," he said.

Nervous but excited

A eptember is extra special for actor Siddhant Chaturvedi as he is eagerly waiting to captive audience with his action avatar in the upcoming film 'Yudhra' and is all set to take on the role of a host at IIFA 2024 for the first time.

Shah Rukh Khan, Karan Johar, Rana Daggubati, Siddhant Chaturvedi and Abhishek Banerjee are going to showcase their hosting skills in Abu Dhabi soon.

Siddhant will host IIFA Rocks along with Abhishek Banerjee.

Speaking to ANI, Siddhant shared his excitement, saying he is a bit nervous but also excited.

"I am feeling a little bit nervous but I am very excited. On 20th September, you will see me in action avatar. It's a big-scale film. It's going to be a lot of fun. We've made a great film. And then after that is the celebration in Abu Dhabi. And I think I'm going to enjoy myself to the fullest. And I'm sure the audience will also enjoy it a lot. And we'll make an atmosphere," he said.

"So that's what my intention is, to just go there and have fun," Sidhant added. —ANI

TENDER, LOVING SELF CARE

Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu has given her fans and followers a peek into a day in her life, which she describes as 'golden life'

Samantha took to Instagram, where she shared a video giving a glimpse of what she does in a day and captioned it: "Life's Golden."

The video begins with "a day in my life" written on the clip. It then begins with Samantha flaunting a golden glow and captioned it "Sunlight at 6.30". She then shared a glimpse of her doing oil pulling and Gua Sha.

She then revealed that she hits the gym at 7.00 AM. She then shared moments of her praying, going for red light therapy, pickle ball and meditating. The actress mentioned that by 10.00 PM she is in bed.

On the work front, Samantha will be seen alongside Varun in 'Citadel Honey Bunny', which will drop on November 7.

'Citadel Honey Bunny' is the Indian counterpart of the larger global series 'Citadel' which starred Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Richard Madden in the lead.

Samantha, who has mostly worked in Telugu and Tamil films. She made her debut in 2010 "Ye Maaya Chesave". She was then seen in "Neethaane En Ponvasantham", "Eega", "Dookudu", "Seethamma Vakitlo Sirimalle Chettu", "Attarintiki Daredi", "Kaththi", "Theri", "24", "Mersal" and "Rangasthalam".

She gained major acclaim with her work in "Mahanati" in 2018, "Super Deluxe" and "Majili". She made her Hindi debut with "The Family Man" in 2021. She was last seen onscreen in "Shaakuntalam" and "Kushi".

In 2022, Samantha announced that she was diagnosed with dermatomyositis. In April, on her 37th birthday, she announced her new film tentatively titled "Bangaram", which will be produced under Samantha's banner Tralala Moving Pictures as its maiden production venture. —IANS

Celebs condole Malaika's dad's death

The Khan family visited Malaika Arora's family home on Wednesday after her father Anil died by suicide earlier this morning.

Sohail Khan, along with his parents, Salim Khan and Salma Khan, were seen entering the house as photographers gathered around them.

Several celebs, including Malaika's close friend Kareena Kapoor, Saif Ali Khan, Arjun Kapoor, ex-husband Arbaaz Khan, Chunky Panday, and Ananya Panday, among others, were spotted arriving at Arora's home.

Earlier in the day, Mumbai police had said that the death of Malaika's father, "prima facie," looks like a suicide, and all angles in the case are being investigated. DCP Crime Branch, Raj Tilak Roshan, informed the media that the body of the deceased has been sent for post-mortem. He added that the teams of police and forensics are carrying out the investigation.

"Body of one Anil Mehta (62) was found. He resided on the 6th floor. We are carrying out further investigation and our team is here. We are investigating all angles in detail. Our teams are here, forensic teams are here as well. Body is being taken for postmortem. We are investigating everything in detail. Prima facie, it seems to be suicide, we are conducting further investigation."

Malaika Arora was not at home when her father passed away. The actor-model was reportedly in Pune, and rushed back to Mumbai soon after learning about the incident. — ANI

The prison of fame

Grammy-winner Beyonce has talked about music, family and fame, which she says can feel like prison at times. In a new interview with GQ Magazine to promote her new whiskey line, Beyonce said: "I create at my own pace, on things that I hope will touch other people. I hope my work encourages people to look within themselves and come to terms with their own creativity, strength, and resilience."

She said that she focuses on "storytelling, growth, and quality." Beyonce added: "I'm not focused on perfectionism. I focus on evolution, innovation, and shifting perception."

She went on: "Working on the music for 'Cowboy Carter' and launching this exciting new project feel nothing like prison, nor a burden."

The "Naughty Girl" hitmaker said that she only works on what liberates her.

"It is fame that can at times feel like prison," she said, reports nypost.com.

"So, when you don't see me on red carpets, and when I disappear until I have art to share, that's why." — IANS